

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of network collaboration through embedded annotation and rendering instructions to generate, transmit, and render collaborative content, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a collaborative content including a base document and at least one collaborative content element having at least one annotation embedded therein, and rendering instructions therefor;

rendering said collaborative content in accordance with said rendering instructions; and

transmitting a message having said rendering instructions embedded therein and comprising said collaborative content between client workstations.

2. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of annotating said collaborative content by adding another collaborative content element.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said annotating step comprises presenting annotation options to said client workstation.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said annotating step comprises inputting a text element to name said collaborative content element.

5. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said annotating step comprises inputting a text input element to generate text as said collaborative element.

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said annotating step comprises providing a visual cue to indicate the state of said collaborative content ~~composition step~~.

7. (Original) the method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said visual cue comprises at least one of a marker, cursor, icon, and marquee box.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said transmitting step is initiated by a user selecting a visual element to transmit said collaborative content.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said client workstation includes at least one of a personal computer equipped with internet browser software, a mobile communication device with a graphical or textual display, and a personal digital assistant equipped with a hypertext viewer.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said client workstation includes a program execution capability comprising:

- an interpreted software program;
- a compiled software program; and
- a software program executed by a virtual machine.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said transmitting step is performed using a messaging system.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said messaging system includes at least one of:

- an electronic mail system;
- an electronic news or bulletin-board system; and
- a mobile paging system.

13. (Original) the method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said transmitting step is performed using a transport mechanism including at least one of:

- an internet protocol;
- a wireless protocol;
- a synchronous messaging protocol; and

an asynchronous messaging protocol.

14. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rendering step is performed on a client workstation.

15. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said rendering step is performed on a server.

16. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the collaborative content transmitted in said transmitting step includes a URL and rendering instructions.

17. (Currently amended) A network collaboration tool using embedded annotation and rendering instructions comprising:

a web browser software for displaying a collaborative content in accordance with rendering instructions therefor, said collaborative content including a base document and at least one collaborative content element having an embedded annotation;

a graphical collaboration tool for generating at least one collaborative content element on the collaborative content displayed in said web browser software and transmitting the at least one collaborative content element and rendering instructions therefor; and

a server process for receiving the at least one generated collaborative content element and rendering instructions therefor, rendering the collaborative content in combination with the received collaborative content element in accordance with the received rendering instructions, and generating a combined collaborative content including the received collaborative content element and embedded annotation thereof for display by said web browser software.

18. (Previously amended) The network collaboration tool as claimed in claim 17, wherein said graphical collaboration tool includes a toolbar.

19. (Previously amended) The network collaboration tool as claimed in claim 18 wherein said toolbar includes an add circle tool, an add rectangle tool, an add arrow tool, and add text tool, and an add text highlight tool.

20. (Previously amended) The network collaboration tool as claimed in claim 17 wherein said graphical collaboration tool includes a collaborative content element name entry field.

21. (Previously amended) The network collaboration tool as claimed in claim 17 wherein said web browser software, said graphical collaboration tool, and said server process execute on the same computer system.

22. (Previously amended) The network collaboration tool as claimed in claim 17 wherein said web browser software, said graphical collaboration tool, and said server process each execute on a separate computer system.

23. (Currently amended) A system for network collaboration using embedded annotation and rendering instructions comprising:

a processor for receiving and transmitting data; and

a memory coupled to the processor, said memory having stored therein sequences of instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to generate a collaborative content including a base document and at least one collaborative content element having an embedded annotation and rendering instructions therefor, to render the collaborative content in accordance with rendering instructions, and to transmit the collaborative content and rendering instructions therefor, between client workstations.

24. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said memory further comprises sequences of instructions which, when executed by said processor, cause said processor to annotate the collaborative content by adding another collaborative content element.

25. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 24 wherein said annotate instructions comprise presenting annotation options to a user at the client workstation.

26. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 24 wherein said annotate instructions comprise inputting a text element to name said collaborative content element.

27. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claims 24 wherein said annotate instructions comprise inputting a text input element to generate text as said collaborative element.

28. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 24 wherein said annotate instructions comprise providing a visual cue to indicate the state of said collaborative content ~~composition step~~.

29. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 28 wherein the visual cue comprises at least one of a marker, cursor, icon, and marquee box.

30. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said transmit instruction is initiated by a user selecting a visual element to transmit the collaborative content.

31. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the client workstation includes at least one of a personal computer equipped with internet browser software, a mobile communication device with a graphical or textual display, and a personal digital assistant equipped with a hypertext viewer.

32. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the client workstation includes a program execution capability comprising:
an interpreted software program;

a compiled software program; and
a software program executed by a virtual machine.

33. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the transmit instruction is performed using a messaging system.

34. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 33 wherein the messaging system includes at least one of:

an electronic mail system;
an electronic news or bulletin-board system; and
a mobile paging system.

35. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the transmit instruction is performed using a transport mechanism including at least one of:

an internet protocol;
a wireless protocol;
a synchronous messaging protocol; and
an asynchronous messaging protocol.

36. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the ~~render instruction is~~ rendering instructions are performed on a client workstation.

37. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the ~~render instruction is~~ rendering instructions are performed on a server.

38. (Currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein the collaborative content transmitted includes a URL ~~and~~ comprising the embedded annotation and rendering instructions.

39. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said sequences of instructions include at least one of a client-side scripting language.

40. (Previously amended) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said sequences of instructions include at least one of Javascript and dynamic HTML.

41. (Currently amended) A client system for network collaboration comprising:

a collaborative content including a base document and at least one collaborative content element having an embedded annotation, and rendering instructions therefor; and

a graphical collaboration tool for generating, ~~transmitting, and~~ rendering said collaborative content in accordance with said rendering instructions, and transmitting said collaborative content with said rendering instructions embedded therein, wherein said graphical collaboration tool is downloaded from a server.

42. (Currently amended) The client system as claimed in claim 41 wherein said collaborative content is ~~referenceable~~referenceable by a URL.

43. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 41 wherein said graphical collaboration tool includes a client-side scripting language.

44. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 41 wherein said graphical collaboration tool includes at least one of Javascript and dynamic HTML.

45. (Currently amended) The client system as claimed in claim 41 wherein said collaborative content includes a URL of ~~at~~the base document and a representation of ~~at~~the collaborative content element.

46. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 41, wherein said graphical collaboration tool, in response to a user manipulating said graphical collaboration tool to add a collaborative content element, transmits a representation of the collaborative content element and the URL of said collaborative content to a server and

receives from the server said collaborative content including the added collaborative content element.

47. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 41 wherein said graphical collaboration tool, in response to a user manipulating said graphical collaboration tool to modify a collaborative content element, transmits a representation of the collaborative content element and the URL of said collaborative content to a server and receives from the server said collaborative content including the modified collaborative content element.

48. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 41 wherein said graphical collaboration tool includes a toolbar.

49. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 48 wherein the tool bar includes an add circle tool, an add rectangle tool, and add arrow tool, an add text tool, and an add text highlight tool.

50. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 48 wherein the tool bar includes a collaborative content element name entry field.

51. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 46 wherein said collaborative content received from the server includes an HTML page.

52. (Previously amended) The client system as claimed in claim 47 wherein said collaborative content received from the server includes an HTML page.

53. (Currently amended) A server system for network collaboration comprising:

a collaborative content including a base document and at least one collaborative content element having a first embedded annotation, and first rendering instructions therefor; and

a server process for responding to a user request wherein the user request includes at least one of a request for said collaborative content, a graphical collaboration tool, said collaborative content including an added collaborative content element having a second embedded annotation, and second rendering instructions therefor, and said collaborative content including a modified collaborative content element having a third embedded annotation and third rendering instructions therefor.

54. (Currently amended) The server system as claimed in claimed 53 wherein said collaborative content is ~~referenceable~~referenceable by a URL.

55. (Previously amended) The server system as claimed in claim 53 wherein said server process is a CGI script.

56. (Currently amended) The server system as claimed in claim 53 wherein said collaborative content includes a URL of a~~the~~ base document and a representation of a~~the~~ collaborative content element.

57. (Previously amended) The server system as claimed in claim 53 wherein said server process executes on a client workstation of a user.

58. (Previously amended) the server system as claimed in claim 53 wherein said collaborative content transmitted in response to a user request includes an HTML page.